The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE. ORGANIZE!

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"NO EARTHLY POWER DARES AFFRONT PUBLIC OPINION"

In an address before the New York bar association, former United States Senator Beveridge objected to congress interfering with the supreme court's five-to-four policy.

The speech was notable, not for its logic but for its frank acknowledgment of the power of popular agitation and for its appeal to the supreme court to reform.

Mr. Beveridge warned the court that these decisions result in "heavy increases of public disapproval, thus strengthening and broadening the already strong and widespread sentiment for a constitutional amendment abolishing the principle of judicial review altogether."

The former progressive indicated his alarm, and in effect told the court: "If you-don't abandon your five-to-four decisions the tides of popular protest will sweep your power from you and through constitutional amendment make it impossible for you to declare laws unconstitutional. So follow my plan and prove yourselves good politicians, until popular resentment subsides."

The speaker did not call his opponents names, nor did he indulge in other silly practices so common to reactionaries. The agitation for court control is so extensive that the day of abuse has passed. Mr. Beveridge seems aware of this fact. He said courts are challenged, not by demagogues alone but "by able and determined men."

"If no more five-to-four decisions are made for a long time agitation against that practice will cease; it is concrete action, not academic theory, that stirs the public," said the practical Beveridge.

"It is the fact that in the last five years more national laws have been overthrown by a judicial majority of one than were annulled during the whole previous 129 years of our history that has aroused public opposition to the 'one-man rule,' as the popular saying brands these five-to-four nullifications of acts of congress."

The speech is not intended for public consumption. If it were the masses would be inspired to constant agitation by this acknowledgment that they are invincible when they assume the task of developing a sound public opinion against wrong.

This public opinion is so powerful, said Mr. Beveridge, that "no earthly power can safely affront it."

The speech should encourage trade unionists to continue their agitation against court usurpation and other social ills.

No public utterance of recent date has so whole-heartedly acknowledged the power of agitators and educators. Here is a former United States senator who calls on the mighty supreme court of United States to shift its course because men protest against usurpation.

While not intending to do so, the speech should make it clear to every trade unionist why reaction hates the agitator.

The speech is another proof that the limes of privilege waver and break against the determined charges of education and intelligent protest.

ROADS' FALSE POVERTY CRY ALARMS INVESTING PUBLIC

Washington, Jan. 26.—The railroads can get all the money they want if they give security, said Senator Couzens in his latest reply to Secretary of the Treasury Mellon. The lawmaker and cabinet official disagree on the Mellon tax plan and are writing open letters to each other.

Mr. Mellon stated that the railroads needed funds, and that this money must come from the sale of stocks, which the people will not buy because the supreme court has ruled that the railroads must give half of their profits over 6 per cent to the government to aid weaker roads.

To this claim, Senator Couzens replies:

"Every investor knows the reason why stock of the railroads can not be sold. For 10 years or more you must admit that all the campaign of the railroads has discouraged investment in their stocks. They constantly cry about and exhibit their poverty and other demoralization because of their failure to earn more money. The purpose of this campaign, of course, is to increase freight rates and there is a continuous effort made in that direction. Now that rates have been boosted in many instances to a point confiscatory of products carried, and now that there is available from earnings sufficient to pay large cash dividends on most roads, there is an effort on the part of the railroads to sell stock."

Senator Couzens stated that he has been informed on reliable authority that the 1923 report of all class 1 railroads will show profits that will permit dividends of from 9.38 per cent to 10.88 per cent on all railroad stock.

"This is on the par value of the stocks, and includes the stocks which are not entitled to earnings in that they never represented values, as well as the water stocks.

"Perhaps, if the railroads published this fact, they might be able to sell some of their stock. However, this may not be possible, for the reason of the public impression that the railroads are badly managed and because it is well known their relations with the government are most unsatisfactory.

"Investors would not, and should not, buy stocks on which the railroad managers and the Wall street bankers can stop dividends with impunity. They should require mortgages on the railroad property, so that when they stop interest payments the owners will have some recourse in the way of collecting returns on their investments and, if necessary, their principal. This is the real reason for the increased bond issues in relation to stock issues.

"No matter to what point you reduce the surplus, investors in public and should not, take this kind of a hazard. All records show, however, that, admitting your statement that the railroads need a billion a year, there is plenty of money when the railroad give some returns on their investments. They got it last year, and they will get all they need this year."

PORTO RICANS WANT SELF-DETERMINATION

Washington, Jan. 26.—A joint high commission of the Porto Rican legislature has arrived in the nation's capital to place in the hands of President Coolidge and congress a petition for legislative improvements.

The commission is presided over by former Congressman Towner, now governor of Porto Rico. The commission includes the president of the Porto Rican senate and the speaker of the house. Labor is represented by Santiago Iglesias and Rafael Alonso, senator and representative, respectively, in the Porto Rican legislature and representatives of the A. F. of L. in Porto Rico.

"The fundamental idea of the joint commission," said Senator Iglesias, "is that Porto Rico be given the right to a popularly elected government, from governor down, in accordance with the treaty of Paris having in mind that the Porto Ricans are citizens of the United States, though by decisions of the supreme court of the United States it appears that they are not, because these decisions say the constitution does not apply to them.

"While labor's representatives on the commission will urge these principles just as strongly as their colleagues, we will watch most closely that there be guaranteed the fundamental principles of freedom and the exercise of the franchise that will aid in elevating the working people of Porto Rico, who are 95 per cent of the inhabitants, to a higher level of civilization."

UNIONS WON PENSION; OTHERS STOOD ALOOF

Washington, Jan. 26.—High salaried officials in the federal service are now interested in federal retirement legislation, and demand higher annuities than is received by lower salaried employes.

The latter made the fight for retirement. Now, after the fight is won, the high salaried officials have been a menace and would take charge of affairs.

Members of organized labor are urging equality before the law and a house joint hearing on proposed amendments to the civil service act.

The chief objects include the Lehlbach-Treasurer Flaherty of the post office clerks, Edward J. Cantwell of the letter carriers and S. A. Reynolds of the rural letter mail carriers. These representatives of the workers urge that retirement be compulsory after 30 years' employment and they oppose graduated annuities. They declare that it would penalize age and go away from the democratic intention of the original law.

In urging a 30-year retirement, Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty made the point that now workers are forced to labor until exhausted through old age.

"The principle of a shorter life, time work should be established," said Mr. Flaherty, "just as the principle of a shorter day's work has been established. When it was first proposed to put a 12-hour workday in effect it was hailed as revolutionary. But a 12-hour day, later a 10-hour day and finally an eight-hour day has become recognized as just."

PRICES WILL NOT DECLINE

New York, Jan. 26.—It is "extremely unlikely" that prices will go back to the pre-war level, at least in this generation, according to John Moody, president of a financial organization in a speech to bankers, investors and business men.

"The abnormal cost of living," he said, "is becoming the normal. The new generation is growing up and the low costs are to the war are hardly a memory to them. Nowadays people are getting so accustomed to what we used to call the high cost of living that we are beginning to forget that we formerly lived on a different level.

"It seems to me that people who look for a return of 1913 prices lack imagination and perspective. Previously in the history of this country the market was strained. Today it is the reverse. Interest rates are not climbing—they are falling. Business plans at home and abroad now are being made on the basis of present costs."

JAPS HEAD EAST

San Francisco, Jan. 26.—Japanese farmers, forbidden by a law of this state to own or lease farm lands or to work them on a crop-sharing basis, are turning toward eastern and middle western centers of population, local Japanese say.

But land owners of California have been hit the hardest. In some quarters the shrinking in and sale of these estates is predicted.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 26.—A general wage increase has been secured by the printing pressmen in this city. Day workers on newspapers will receive an additional $4.50 a week, and the night workers will secure proportional increases. Commercial shops advance rates $1.50 to $2.40 and concede the 44-hour week.

OIL SCANDAL GROWS; MAY REVOKE LEASE

Washington, Jan. 26.—The Teapot Dome oil lease, now under probe by a senate committee, is assuming the proportions of a national scandal. The president, it is stated, has called on the attorney general to watch events. It is possible that action may proceed and will follow, and the oil lease may be revoked. Another possibility is that two cabinet officers may be forced into public life to appease the popular clamor. As in the days of Rome, these officials will be "kicked upstairs."

Albert B. Fall, who leased the Wyoming oil field to Sinclair interests when he was secretary of the interior, denies that he received any money from Sinclair. The same day Archie Roosevelt told the senate committee he resigned from one of the Sinclair companies because of the "amazing testimony" developed. He told the committee that G. D. Wahlberg, confidential secretary to Harry F. Sinclair, told him (Roosevelt that Sinclair paid $68,000 to the foreman of Fall's ranch in New Mexico.

Prior to this it was stated in a letter to the committee that he received $100,000 from E. B. McLean, newspaper publisher, and that he carried the money west and paid for the ranch he bought following the leasing of Teapot Dome. McLean telegraphed his attorney, former Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, to the same effect, and Palmer made the letter public. Then Senator Walsh, a member of the committee, went to Florida, where McLean was staying under the doctor's orders. McLean told Senator Walsh a different story—that instead of cash, he gave Fall checks for $100,000, which were returned uncashed.

No one seems to deny that Fall secured at least $100,000. The only question is where it came from. Sinclair is in Europe and Fall is in New Orleans, where he has been staying under the orders of a doctor.

CARPENTERS BUY LAND: HOME FOR AGED MEMBERS

Indianapolis, Jan. 26.—The purchase of 1,684 acres of land in Pinellas, Florida, by the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners for a home for aged members is announced by officers of that organization.

This is the result of a call by the general executive board on March 26, 1923, for a referendum on the establishment of a home and the creation of an old age pension.

The Lakeland tract was purchased after long investigation by the brotherhood's general executive board and the price was $632,393, or an average of $375 per acre.

Nearly 500 acres of the tract are in groves with more than 30,000 orange, grape fruit and tangerine trees from one to 10 years old. The balance is citrus and vegetable land with approximately 1,000,000 feet of standing merchantable pine.

According to the Florida state law the property is exempt from taxation providing the income is used for the maintenance of the home and its occupants.

The city of Lakeland will supply electric power at the lowest regular rate, and will build hard surface roads to the property without cost to the Brotherhood.

OPPOSE CHILD LABOR

Newark, N. J., Jan. 26.—The New Jersey state federation of labor and the state chamber of commerce have joined hands in an attack on child labor. Both organizations favor triple compensation penalties upon employers who employ children under the age limit. The penalties are intended apply only when children are injured. Under the present law when an illegally employed child is injured the employer is fined for violation of the child labor law.

Both employer and employe also favor a law which would include occupational diseases among those entitled to compensation under the state law.

WOULD CONTROL POWER

Seattle, Jan. 26.—A movement has been launched in this state to permit the people to utilize water power. In a speech before the central labor union Ralph D. Nichols, secretary of the state super-power league, explained the plan to secure authority through an initiative measure, rather than the legislature. Mr. Smith declared that interests had control the nation's super-power is the strongest political and industrial machine in the country.

BILL POSTERS STRIKE

Seattle, Jan. 26.—Bill posters in this city suspended work to enforce a wage increase of $1 a day for themselves and helpers. The present rate is $44 and $46 for a 44-hour week.

TIMBER WORKERS' WAGES CUT

Marshfield, Ore., Jan. 26.—Uncrganized timber workers in this section have suffered wage cuts. These workers are members of company "union" known as the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen.

Textile Barons Have New Plan To Repeal Women's Legislation

Charlotte, N. C., Jan. 26.—New England textile barons seem to have abandoned their claim that they are handicapped by the low-wage, long-hour worker of the south. It would appear that they failed in their fight for the repeal of social legislation in eastern states, and now the barons claim that the boll weevil and "worn out" cotton land in the south handicap them.

In a letter to the Charlotte Herald, President McMahon of the United Textile Workers calls attention to the new war cry. The trade unionist also refers to gambling in cotton futures by bankers, to the practice of employers who sell inferior goods as "first class," and to their rewarding of public officials who break strikes.

President McMahon suggests that part of the money used to break strikes be applied to warfare against the boll weevil and other enemies of plant life in the south. The unionist referred to a statement by Sheriff Colvin Hall, of Bristol, Rhode Island senate committee that he received $15,000 in fees from the Providence telephone company for services during the six weeks' strike of telephone operators last summer.

President McMahon asks how much did the Rhode Island textile manufacturers "put up" during the 40 weeks' strike of 1922, when, 10,000 workers were involved.

The main reason for the present plight of the manufacturers and other business men in New England, said the unionist, is over capitalization caused in many instances by stock dividends.

Reference is made to the recent amalgamation of the Jenckes spinning company and the Manville company, both of whom have paid stock dividends as well as good quarterly dividends on original investments. "They now decide to unite and by the stroke of a pen add an additional capitalization of close to $10,000,000 without the actual putting in of one dollar for improvements. This is only one instance of frenzied finance. I am confident if proper valuation, according to present condition of spindles, can be applied to each mill unit in Rhode Island, good returns would be had upon the investment.

"The bankers today are so directly interested in the mills that stabilization in the industry is not wanted. These bankers know, as well as do the manufacturers, that gambling in cotton futures is the curse of the industry and should be abolished if these people really meant to see progress in the textile industry."

In answer to the charge of a textile representative that labor causes waste, President McMahon says:

"Let me say here and now that the cut of seconds charged to the weaver, for which she is penalized by the overseer, is, 99 times out of 100, placed among the perfect goods and sold as the prime works to be finished. It is a well known fact among all fishers that this class of work is finished as 'firsts' and sold accordingly.

"We could go further and state that we know of many instances where two pieces of cotton, the same length, of course, but of entirely different market price being blended together and the product of same placed on the market and sold to the public as though it was the product of the finest cotton spinning."

From the Side Lines

Railroad executives don't like the government order that they install automatic train control devices. The plan will save life but will cost money. The executives make the excuse that they did when forced to install the automatic coupler and other life-saving devices.

And the people who first demanded these changes are called "agitators who would destroy capital."

Employers of Alberta, Canada, want that department of labor abolished. Their spokesman is their rubber stamp on the government's minimum wage board.

From a theoretical standpoint, labor laws are desirable, but they must not be effective.

Do the people rule? In discussing revision of the house rules, Congressman Fish said: "Let us go back to a little history. We witnessed here the extreme folly of the present system at the last session of congress when a minority of two members controlled all legislation. We saw Mr. Madden, the chairman of the rules committee and the majority leader, both of whom were members of the committee, controlled absolutely all legislation."

GOUGING LANDLORDS WARNED TO BE CAREFUL

Augusta, Me., Jan. 26.—If landlords continue their gouging practices, a wave of rent-control legislation will sweep the country is the hint given landlords by Henry R. Bridham of Boston, at a meeting of real estate men in this city.

He was declared that government participation in building is a possibility unless evils at the base of "the present anti-landlord feeling" are eliminated.

WAGE PLAN FOR CONVICTS

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 26.—Wages for convicts was urged by Governor Smith in a special message to the legislature. The governor suggested the linking of industries and parole problems through a joint board which would consider the work of the prisoner in determining release on parole.

The governor favors a change in the present law so prisoners will be charged with a direct maintenance cost of 30 cents per day out of earnings, the earnings above that amount to be apportioned at the rate of 30 per cent to the state and 70 per cent to the convict.

The recommendations are based on a report of the Welfare state association on prison industries.

MINERS OPPOSE PENSION

Stellarton, Nova Scotia, Jan. 26.—Miners are opposing a pension plan proposed by the Dominion coal company. The miners say the giver can take, and they are never sure of philanthropy.

PAINTERS RAISE STANDARDS

Baltimore, Jan. 26.—Organized painters have raised their living standards by securing new wage agreements with the larger contractors in this city.

PARTY LINES BREAK IN NATIONAL CAPITOL

Washington, Jan. 26.—By a combination of the minority party and a group of progressives in the administration party, the house rules have been changed in such a manner that now it is doubtful if the administration can pass the Mellon tax bill as intended.

The most important changes in the house rules is the provision that 150 members may by petition at any time move the house discharge a committee from further consideration of a bill, and the provision that amendments to pending legislation from the floor of the house need not be "germane" to the paragraph then under consideration but only to the entire measure.

These changes are of a parliamentary nature, but they mark the end of the practice of a tariff or tax committee refusing to accept amendments from the floor of the house. Now these amendments must be voted on, and with a roll call vote if demanded, instead of how times have changed from "the good old days."

In the senate the progressives in the administration party, acting with the minority party, caused another upheaval by electing a member of the minority party chairman of the important committee on interstate commerce.

This is the first time in the history of the senate that a majority party was defeated in its attempt to elect a committee chairman. This incident, together with the house coalition, indicates the new spirit that has swept through congress.

TOBACCO PROFITS GAIN

New York, Jan. 26.—The R. J. Reynolds tobacco company reports a clear profit last year of $23,039,876. This is after depreciation, taxes, interest, etc., has been paid and is a sain of nearly $5,000,000 over the previous year.

Studebaker automobile corporation profits will be around $20,000,000, as compared with $18,086,000 in 1922.

The annual report of the National biscuit company shows record earnings for the past year. Profits were $12,092,828 after deducting all charges for expenses, taxes and other accounts. Last year the company had a clear profit of $11,024,980, and the year before $5,677,461. These profits have been made despite enormous capital expenditures because of the purchase of bakeries formerly leased, and the replacement of buildings with modern construction.

PAPER WORKERS UNITE

Canton, N. C., Jan. 26.—Paper workers employed by the Champion Fibre company have organized after one of the quickest campaigns in this part of the country. More than 900 employes out of a total of 1,050 joined the new organization.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Reno, Nev., Jan. 26.—The Typographical union has secured a $2 weekly wage increase. The new rates are $45 and $48 and date back to December 1 last. The 44-hour week will prevail in commercial shops.

EDUCATOR DEMANDS FREEDOM OF SPEECH

New York, Jan. 26.—"There is no more unhappy tendency in our contemporary American life than that to persecute intellectual leaders with whom we may not ourselves happen to agree," said Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, in reply to a protest against a series of lectures at Columbia by Papini, Italian author and editor, who has been somewhat harshly of American life.

"If Signor Papini has said or written anything contrary to the spirit of modern life or of any of our national leaders, surely there can be no better way to bring him to a better understanding of us and of them than by giving him every opportunity to move about among us on that plane of intellectual freedom and moral equality which belong of right to every honest-minded human being," said Dr. Butler.

"This spirit of persecution," continued the educator, "is far more un-American than anything which Signor Papini or any other distinguished European man of letters could possibly say or write about us."

Dr. Butler declared that freedom of expression is the best method of combatting human error. "There is no religious or political views of a sincere scholar or man of letters, these do not concern employers or individuals to serve the highest public interest by combatting error in whatever form these may be found."

ROAD'S LABOR POLICY DOES NOT AID PUBLIC

Rock Island, Ill., Jan. 26.—Rock Island railroad shop men in this vicinity have appealed to the public bureau to present their side to the public.

The shop men ask business men what has been the benefit to the railroad's campaign to reduce wages and lengthen hours. Have freight rates been reduced? Have the strikers, and you travel any cheaper? Is the service improved?

Vice President Gorman of the railroad is quoted as saying that the Rock Island will hardly be able to pay dividends on the preferred stock and that nothing will be left for common stock.

"What has become of the huge sums of money paid into the pay rolls of the shop men, and, incidentally, from business enterprises of the Tri-Cities and other points?" the workers ask.

"The company's figures show that millions of dollars have been spent to defeat the unions. This money was used for the hire of gunmen and for ammunition, food and housing of them and strikebreakers.

"Reliable records show the Rock Island to be in poor financial condition in spite of their anti-labor policy that they planned to profit by."

WANT RENTS PROBED

Washington, Jan. 26.—Investigation of the nation's housing and rental conditions is the purpose of a resolution introduced by Congressman Weller.

"Workers have suffered long enough through ever increasing rents. The time is time congress gave this problem more than passing consideration," said the New York congressman.

"When I was a young man the family budget never allowed the paying of more than 25 per cent of the amount earned each week. Try to do this in any large city today. In many cases, it requires 50 per cent. A skilled working man is forced to pay half his month's earnings for a suitable place in which to keep his family."

Congress has passed a law governing rents in the District of Columbia. This has been upheld by the United States supreme court.

NO CHANGE IN BAKERS' WAR

Chicago, Jan. 26.—The amalgamation of the Ward Baking company with the United bakeries corporation will not affect the fight of the Bakery Workers' union against the anti-union Ward baking company. This concern would establish the anti-union shop in each city it entered, it is charged. "The circumstances under which this fight was forced upon us by the Ward company makes it all the more clear what the name of the corporation is," says the Bakers' Journal.

"Wage concerns us in the right of organization. Our members were either discharged for the most frivolous excuses or else were compelled to quit by an enforced strike."

HEAVY TAXES PAID

Washington, Jan. 26.—An average of $68.37 per man, woman and child in the United States was collected in taxes in 1922 by the national government and city governments and all other civil divisions having power to levy and collect taxes.

On the basis of four to a family, this will total $273.48 for the year.

IRON MOLDERS GAIN

Everett, Wash., Jan. 26.—Iron molders have negotiated a new agreement. Rates are increased to $8 a day. The old wage was $7.

BOSSES ROUNDED UP; MUST PROVE CHARGE

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 26.—Governor Smith turned a neat trick on the associated industries of New York when he subpoenaed officers of this employers' association to personally appear before him and tell what they know about the state department of labor.

The employers had previously demanded that the governor investigate the department. They said there was gross inefficiency in the administration of this branch of the state government.

The governor's prompt action surprised officers of the associated industries, who take it upon themselves to speak for employers, and wage war against social legislation. These employers never dreamed that the governor would invite them to a hearing if they are "put out" at the turn of events.

"I guess the labor laws are being enforced too much to suit these people," said the shoe is beginning to pinch," the governor said.

It is stated that the charges against the department is the work of Mark A. Daly, executive secretary of the employers' association.

The state federation of labor favors an investigation of the associated industries. The organized workers have repeatedly charged that the employers have indulged in unfair lobbying practices.

The employers' association was under fire during Governor Miller's administration. At that time it was charged that a lobby, headed by Executive Secretary Daly, exerted improper methods in defeating legislation.

CHURCH MAN EXPOSES OPEN (?) SHOP FRAUD

Baltimore, Jan. 26.—In an address at the public forum on the "Open Shop Fraud," Dr. John A. Ryan of Catholic university, Washington, declared that, contrary to popular belief, the open (?) shop discriminates by refusing labor its right to collective bargaining with the employer.

He said the purpose of the present day open (?) shop is to cripple union labor.

Championing the union as the one force that has raised labor from slavery and a life of privation, Dr. Ryan said promoters of the open (?) shop now are doing the things they accused the labor unions of doing.

TRAIN CONTROL NEEDED TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

Washington, Jan. 26.—More than 4,000 persons have been killed on railroads in the last 15 years because of lack of an automatic train control system, says the interstate commerce commission in its report on the recent New York Central wreck at Forsyth, N. Y.

UNIONISTS ACTIVE

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 26.—The anti-union policy of coal barons and other interests in this state has had an effect opposite from that intended in this city.

Here the workers have perfected plans for an organizing and education campaign which is more extensive than ever before. Literature and the spoken word will tell the story of how the union among the workers made it possible for gun men, injunction judges and overlords of industry to fill jails, and keep workers in subjection.

One of the strongest arguments the unionists will use are figures issued by the state on accidents and fatalities in West Virginia mines. In the non-union mines the number of deaths are double the number in mines that are organized, and where employes are permitted to have a voice in working conditions.

ALIEN-VETS WARNED

Washington, Jan. 26.—Aliens who served in the American army during the world war and who have neglected to take advantage of the special legislation facilitating their naturalization are warned in a circular issued by the commissioner of naturalization that the time limit set by the act of congress expires March 2, 1924. Such aliens are permitted to file application without cost and to be admitted to citizenship upon presentation of their discharge papers and proof of good character.

WOULD COERCE LABOR TO BACK MELLON PLAN

Washington, Jan. 26.—The following letter from Governor Hunt of Arizona to United States Senator Ashurst indicates how big business "makes" public opinion:

"My dear Mr. Ashurst: I am in receipt of a communication from an employe of the Arizona Eastern railroad in Arizona submitting several letters received at the office of the state and addressed to all of the employes of that railroad in the state.

"Included among the documents is a copy of an editorial which appeared in the New York Times of January 20th, 1923, on the subject of the Mellon taxation plan and the soldiers' bonus. The editorial suggests that the employes write letters of the congressman and senators with communications on this subject.

"The employes of the Arizona Eastern to its agents instruct them to interview various business men and citizens in their communities—a list of names being submitted—and urge these citizens to write to congressman and senators asking support for the Mellon plan, and the agents are requested to report to the vice president and general manager of the railroad that the letters have been written.

"It appears that the employes have not been enthusiastic about the matter and they have received letters and telegrams from the general manager, vice president, general manager or the superintendent, the latest message urging that they do not use sufficient interest is being taken by agents and insisting that a better showing be made.

"You will, therefore, understand that economic pressure is being applied by the railroad to coerce the employes to indorse the Mellon taxation plan."

FOOD COSTS DROP

Washington, Jan. 26.—The bureau of labor statistics reports that during the month from November 15, 1923, to December 15, 1923, the average family expenditure decreased in these 32 cities: Seattle, 3 per cent; Boston, Bridgeport, Buffalo, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Portland, Me., Providence, Salt Lake City and San Francisco, 2 per cent; Buffalo, Butte, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, Manchester, Newark, New Haven, New York, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Washington, D. C., 1 per cent, and Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City, Mo., Milwaukee, Portland, Ore., Scranton, and Springfield, Ill., less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

In 19 cities the average family expenditure increased as follows: Dallas, 3 per cent; Charleston, S. C., New Orleans, 2 per cent; Atlanta, Birmingham, Houston, Jacksonville, Minneapolis, Mobile, Norfolk, Omaha and St. Paul, 1 per cent; Fall River, Memphis, Milwaukee, Richmond, Rochester and Savannah, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR

Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 26.—Opposition to convict labor in this state is increasing, and the state federation of labor and the workers is enlisting sympathizers.

The reformatory at Anamosa has more than 500 convicts are leased for a pittance to contractors who operate through the Reliance and Sterling companies. Organized workers demand that these contracts be annulled. Free labor and the state penitentiaries lie behind the claim that other work must first be secured for the convicts.

A determined effort was made to establish a cement plant in which the convicts could be employed. This has aroused the ire of organized labor because immense profits for this necessary commodity for highway construction is endangered.

CHANGES LITERACY TEST

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 26.—A bill intended to restore to election inspectors the power to administer the literacy test has been introduced in the state legislature by Assemblyman Ricca. The last legislature transferred the power of administering this test from election inspectors to the educational authorities. Mr. Ricca contends that because of this change hundreds of voters throughout the state were disqualified from voting at the last election.